

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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SUBJECT: US PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL ENERGY
INSTITUTE (IEI)

REF: 1) VIENNA 5639 ; 2) OECD PARIS 19802;
3) STATE 141997

1. THE IEA GOVERN-NG BOARD (GB) DISCUSSED THE US CONCEPTUAL
PAPER ON THE IEI AT ITS MEETING OF JULY 5-6 AT WHICH
AUSTRIANS WERE PRESENT. THAT DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON
THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE IEI TO THE UN, AND ON THE
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RELATIONSHIP OF THE US CONCEPTUAL PAPER, WHICH WE WILL

TABLE AT THE CIEC, TO THE UN STUDY OF THE IEI NOW UNDERWAY. WHETHER OR NOT ELABORATION OF IEI IN THE CIEC ENERGY COMMISSION, WHICH THE US DESIRES, WOULD CONFLICT WITH THE UN EFFORT TO DEFINE AN IEI WAS ALSO DISCUSSED. SEE REF. 2 FOR A BRIEF REPORT OF THE GB DISCUSSION.

2. THE US BELIEVES THE IEI WILL BE A MORE EFFECTIVE MECHANISM IF IT IS FREE STANDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, CARRYING ON ITS ACTIVITIES IN AN APOLITICAL FRAMEWORK. HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE IEI WILL PROBABLY HAVE A UN TIE. WE WOULD PREFER THAT ANY

UN-IEI LINKAGE BE LOOSE AND INFORMAL AS OPPOSED TO, FOR EXAMPLE, THE TIGHTER LINKAGE OF UN SPECIAL AGENCIES TO THE UN.

3. OUR CONCEPT OF THE IEI IS THAT IT SHOULD BE A SMALL, LEAN ORGANIZATION PLAYING A LIMITED BUT NECESSARY ROLE AS A COORDINATOR OF ENERGY INFORMATION ESPECIALLY ON TECHNOLOGY RELEVANT TO NON-OIL LDC NEEDS, A CATALYST FOR EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES IN NON-OIL LDC'S AND A CONSULTANT ON NON-OIL LDC ENERGY NEEDS AND PROBLEMS. AS SUCH IT WILL HAVE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS. IT SHOULD HAVE A SMALL STAFF OF ENERGY SPECIALISTS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS. WE BELIEVE THE IEI WOULD MORE EFFECTIVELY FILL THOSE FUNCTIONS YET RETAIN ITS LIMITED SCOPE AS A FREE-STANDING ORGANIZATION OR LOOSELY LINKED TO THE UN.

4. THE QUESTIONS OF ORGANIZATION OF THE IEI AND ITS MEMBERSHIP ARE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT UNTIL THE IEI CONCEPT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AND ELABORATED WITH UN PARTICIPATION IN THE CIEC. THIS WILL BE DETERMINED, TO A LARGE EXTENT, BY THE ACTUAL RELATIONSHIP OF IEI, TO THE UN. WE WOULD ENVISION THAT OVERALL DIRECTION, I.E., VOTING RIGHTS, OF THE IEI WILL BE PLACED IN A BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO BE SELECTED EQUALLY FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, NON-OIL LDC'S AND OIL EXPORTERS. AS TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP WE SEE THE IEI AS OPEN TO ALL COUNTRIES WHO DESIRE TO BE MEMBERS AND WHO MEET CERTAIN MODEST REQUIREMENTS, SUCH AS A SMALL FINANCIAL OR OTHER CONTRIBUTION (E.G., TEST SITES OR DATA). SUCH OPEN MEMBERSHIP WOULD CARRY LIMITED PRIVILEGES.

5. WE FIND FEW SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UN

DRAFT STUDY AND THE US CONCEPT OF AN IEL. THE UN STUDY FOCUSES MAINLY ON THE TECHNOLOGY DISSEMINATION FUNCTION OF AN IEL, WHILE OURS IS BROADER; IT INCLUDES SYSTEMS ANALYSIS, RESOURCE ASSESSMENT, TRAINING, AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUAL LDC ENERGY STRATEGY. THE UN STUDY DOES NOT MENTION THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR. BUT WITHIN THE TECHNOLOGY FUNCTION, THE UN STUDY APPEARS TO PARALLEL OURS.

6. FYI. AT THE STAFF LEVEL THE UN SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN WILLING TO COORDINATE ITS STUDY WITH THE US. THE UN STUDY RECOMMENDS THAT AN ADVISORY PANEL BE SET UP TO ADVISE THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE SCOPE AND FUNCTION

OF AN IEL. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS STUDY WILL EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZE THE WORK ON IEL THAT WILL BE UNDERWAY IN CIEC AND, AT A MINIMUM, RECOMMEND THAT THE ADVISORY PANEL TAKE ACCOUNT OF THIS WORK AS IT FORMULATES ITS IDEAS ON THE SCOPE AND FUNCTION OF THE IEL. WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE UN SECRETARIAT STAFF DOING THE STUDY THAT SUCH AN EXPLICIT REFERENCE BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL VERSION OF THE STUDY BUT WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT IT WILL BE. END FYI.

7. THE UN STUDY HAS PROCEEDED SLOWLY. WE EXPECT THAT THE CIEC ENERGY COMMISSION WILL BE WELL ALONG IN ITS DISCUSSION AND ELABORATION OF THE IEL CONCEPT BY THE TIME THE UN STUDY IS DISCUSSED IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE ADVISORY PANEL SET UP. THUS IT APPEARS THAT EITHER DE JURE (FROM A UN RECOMMENDATION TO DEFER TO CIEC IN THE ELABORATION OF AN IEL) OR DE FACTO, THE CIEC DISCUSSION AND ELABORATION OF THE IEL WILL INFLUENCE THE UN DISCUSSION AND ELABORATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF IEL RATHER THAN THE REVERSE. KISSINGER

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